

# Ministry of Fisheries explains Esau's pilchard quota decision

16 Feb 2017 10:20am



WINDHOEK, 16 FEB (NAMPA) - The Permanent Secretary of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Moses Mauriungirire, on Wednesday responded to allegations of the ministry proceeding with the allocation of pilchard fishing quotas, despite a depleting biomass.

The Namibian newspaper on Friday reported that Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Bernhard Esau is apparently pushing ahead with the allocation of pilchard quotas, despite the species being declared depleted and in danger of extinction from Namibian waters.

According to the article, Esau has ignored advice from scientists and his officials, allegations the minister has denied.

Mauriungirire told a media briefing the article implies the minister seeks to personalise the decision-making process on the total allowable catch (TAC) for fisheries, when Esau is in fact concerned about the current status of Namibia's pilchard industry.

Pilchard fisheries has suffered unsustainable harvesting in the past, which resulted in a drop in catches from over one million metric tonnes (MT) in 1968 to 14 000 MT in 2017, said the PS.

He said pilchard stocks are mainly affected by fishing pressure, environmental changes such as sea surface temperatures that affect production of food for pilchards, and predation of pilchards by seals, sea birds and other predators.

Mauriungirire said that if the pilchard industry collapses, it will directly affect 600 workers in the industry with a ripple effect of an estimated 3 000 people affected, hence the decision to allocate quotas.

Nampa last week reported that the supply of pilchard fish in the local market is expected to remain steady, even though catches reduced over the past two years.

Confirming the sustainability, Managing Director of Etosha Fishing Corporation at Walvis Bay, Pieter Greeff told this agency the pilchard biomass is not enough to allow a bigger quota but they have been relying on a Moroccan source via South Africa.

He said the business took a difficult turn since 2015 when they caught 23 000 MT of the 25 000 MT quota for that year. It got even worse last year when their quota was reduced from 25 000MT to 14 000MT, of which they only caught 3 400MT. Greeff also said that due to storms at sea, it has become difficult to catch the pilchards that are also moving deeper into the ocean due to various changes in the environment.

(NAMPA)

NI/LI/AS/ND



Methealth Namibia Administrators make it their business to ensure you are healthy, sometimes you are not and then you or your loved ones may need healthcare. We make sure as a member of Methealth you get what you deserve excellence, innovation and a formidable team of practitioners, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, dieticians and biokineticists.

Methealth Namibia administrators 74% of all medical aid members in Namibia (public & private).

**METHEALTH NAMIBIA**  
ADMINISTRATORS



## Related Stories

- » PERU, US TO SHARE EXPERIENCES ON BROADBAND REGULATION (content/2168/PERU-US-TO-SHARE-EXPERIENCES-ON-BROADBAND-REGULATION/)
- » PRASARANA TO DONATE GIFTS RECEIVED DURING RAMADAN, AIDILFITRI

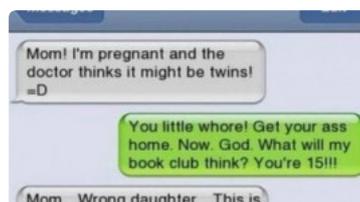
(content/3366/PRASARANA-TO-DONATE-GIFTS-RECEIVED-DURING-RAMADAN-AIDILFITRI/)

- » MET rescues stranded hippos and crocodiles (content/64218/MET-rescues-stranded-hippos-and-crocodiles/)
- » Domestic Workers' Union convenes in capital (content/48904/Domestic-Workers-Union-convenes-in-capital/)
- » All 14 regions to get VTCs (content/53091/All-14-regions-to-get-VTCs/)
- » PIKOM-COMMTECHASIA EXPOS TO SHOWCASE LATEST TECHNOLOGICAL PRODUCTS, SERVICES (content/2980/PIKOM-COMMTECHASIA-EXPOS-TO-SHOWCASE-LATEST-TECHNOLOGICAL-PRODUCTS-SERVICES/)
- » Opuwo primary school hostel undergoing renovations (content/35830/Opuwo-primary-school-hostel-undergoing-renovations/)
- » NSI faces skills and funds shortage (content/65180/NSI-faces-skills-and-funds-shortage/)
- » SHARE PRICES SLIGHTLY HIGHER MID-DAY (content/4750/SHARE-PRICES-SLIGHTLY-HIGHER-MID-DAY/)
- » TRANSFER EXPERIENCED TEACHERS FIRST, SAYS UNION (content/3359/TRANSFER-EXPERIENCED-TEACHERS-FIRST-SAYS-UNION/)

## Media Galleries



(media-gallery/)



(media-gallery/)



(media-gallery/)



(media-gallery/)



(media-gallery/)



(media-gallery/)